AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). A method comprising

providing a tool comprising a circumferentially enclosed hollow body having a distal ~~end~~ terminus, the tool also comprising an extension that protrudes ~~from~~ beyond the distal ~~end~~ terminus and forms a platform that is open in at least one radial direction,

providing an expandable structure;

introducing the tool and the expandable structure into a bone having an interior volume occupied, at least in part, by cancellous bone;

positioning the platform near the expandable structure, with the platform located between the expandable structure and a first region of the cancellous bone which is not to be compressed; ~~and~~

forming a cavity in a second region of cancellous bone by expanding the expandable structure with the platform serving as a barrier to induce the expandable structure to expand away from the platform in the at least one radial direction to compress the second region of the cancellous bone, while the first region of the cancellous bone remains substantially not compressed, and

introducing a filler material into the cavity.

2 to 3 (Canceled).

4 (Previously Presented). . The method of claim 1, wherein during the expanding the expandable structure displaces at least a portion of a cortical bone within the bone.

5 to 11 (Canceled).

12 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the filler material comprises bone cement.

13 to 22 (Canceled).

23 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 1, wherein the tool and the expandable structure are introduced into a vertebral body having an interior volume occupied, at least in part, by cancellous bone.